

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00946 230915Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
IO-13 TRSE-00 /083 W
-----050052 230919Z /10

O R 230910Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4580
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0946

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LY, EG
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN HOSTILITIES

1. FONOFF PRODUCED "OFFICIAL" PAPER JULY 22 DELIVERED DATE
EVENING TO ALL TRIPOLI EMBASSIES GIVING LIBYAN VERSION OF
RECENT EVENTS. PAPER ASSERTED THAT AS LONG AGO AS SEPT 76
QADHAFI HAD DEPLORED PRESENCE EGYPTIAN FORCES ON AND IN SOME
CASES WITHIN LIBYAN BORDER AND SOUGHT FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS.
SINCE THAT TIME LIBYA HAS CONTINUED SEEK CONCILIATION WHILE AT
SAME TIME SHOWING REAT RESTRAINT BY KEEPING ITS OWN FORCES
AWAY FROM FRONTIER. PAPER NOTED THAT IN SPEECHES JUNE 4 AND
JUNE 11 THIS YEAR QADHAFI HAD URGED RESTRAINT AND MEDIATION
BUT HAD STATED LIBYA FULLY PREPARED DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST
AGGRESSION. IN FINAL EFFORT PAPER CLAIMED ON JULY 17
COMMANDER OF LIBYAN FORCES IN EASTERN REGION HAD APPEALED TO
EGYPTIAN COUNTERPART TO REMOVE EGYPTIAN OUTPOSTS FROM LIBYAN
SOIL. RECEIVING NO RESPONSE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES PROCEEDED TO
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RE-ESTABLISH NORMAL CHECK POSTS ON LIBYAN SIDE OF BORDER.
PAPER CLAIMED EGYPTIANS THEN ATTACKED LIBYAN BORDER TOWN
CAUSING CASUALTIES AMONG WOMEN, CHILDREN AND HOSPITAL PATIENTS
EVEN THOUGH MANY EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS REFUSED ORDERS. PAPER
CONCLUDED BY CLAIMING THAT SUCCESSFUL LIBYAN MILITARY
OPERATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED, AND ALL EGYPTIAN FORCES HAD
BEEN REMOVED FROM LIBYAN SOIL, AND EGYPTIAN CLAIMS OF

DAMAGE TO LIBYAN FORCES BASELESS.

2. PAPER OBVIOUS WRITTEN BEFORE YESTERDAY'S EGYPTIAN AIR STRIKE ON GAMAL NASSER AIRBASE SOUTH OF TOBRUQ WHICH THUS FAR IGNORED BY TOTAL MEDIA. MEDIA ALSO CLAIMING HEAVY EGYPTIAN ARMORED ATTACKS ACROSS BORDER BEING REPULSED.

3. SITUATION IN TRIPOLI IS CALM WITH NORMAL HARBOR AND CITY ACTIVITY. CIVILIAN AIRPORTS AT BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI WERE OPERATING AS OF YESTERDAY THOUGH UNDER HEAVIER SECURITY. AWARENESS OF EVENTS BY PEOPLE OF TRIPOLI THUS FAR APPEARS LIMITED AND IT TOO EARLY TO GAUGE REACTION.

4. GOVERNMENT NEWS AGENCY COMMENTARY REPORTED TRIPOLI 0909 WHICH APPEARED TO BE WARNING AGAINST INTERVENTION IN CHAD APPARENTLY APPLIED TO EGYPTIAN BORDER AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TRIPOL00946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770263-0645
Format: TEL
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770725/aaaaavle.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: c3c7f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1766016
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN HOSTILITIES
TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, LY, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3c7f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009